Neighborhood Grants Program History

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In the beginning …

• 1990: There were 15 neighborhood organizations.

• 1990: CFNIL received a half million-dollar Ford/MacArthur grant to support affordable housing.
Early Activities

- CFNIL convened a group of housing organizations to consider ways to promote affordable housing.

- Awarded $250,000 to four neighborhood development organizations from 1991-1993.

- December 10, 1991: Rockford Area Affordable Housing Coalition was formed.
Neighborhood Grants Program

• 1995: Neighborhood Grants Program established.
• Early adopter of a grant program that awarded funds to non-501(c)(3) neighborhood organizations.
• 22 grants totaling $24,500
Neighborhood Activism

• 1996: Council on Neighborhood Organizations established.

• 1997: John McKnight, co-founder of the ABCD Institute at DePaul University, spoke to neighborhood associations in Rockford.

• 1998 – 2000: Provided leadership training through the Gamaliel Foundation.
America in Bloom, Neighborhood Network, & Excellence Everywhere

• 2005: City of Gardens & NGP partnership that helped Rockford win America in Bloom - Earmarked $45,000

• 2005: CFNIL facilitated the development of Neighborhood Network.

• 2006: Partnered with then Rockford Mayor, Larry Morrisey, theming our grantmaking that year as “Excellence Everywhere”.
Neighborhood Network/CFNIL Partnership Grants

- 2010: CFNIL partnered with Neighborhood Network and the City of Rockford to offer:
  - Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program
  - BOLD Neighborhood Capacity Building Grant Program.
Partnership with HomeStart

• 2017: HomeStart and CFNIL NGP partnership formed.
• HomeStart brings:
  • Established relationships with neighborhood residents
  • Additional funding resources
  • Additional leadership training through NeighborWorks
  • Expansion into Boone, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties.
• NGP comes full circle – NHS of Freeport & RAAHC merged to form HomeStart in 2013.
27 years later...

- As many as 90 neighborhood organizations.

- 499 grants totaling $776,122.93 since 1995.

- Wide variety of grants – Key is neighborhood improvement by and for neighborhood residents.
Application Walk-Thru and Tips

• Start at cfnil.org
• Create an account if you are applying for the first time. Contact us to be added to a current organization account.
• Useful Links:
  • Applying for Funding
  • How to Use Collaborator
  • CFNIL’s Grant Resources
  • Copy Request Application Tutorial
  • Neighborhood Grants Program Webpage (Budget)

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Community Foundation of Northern Illinois
What is the Purpose of the Program?

• Promote resident participation and leadership in neighborhood-based groups/organizations
• Encourage and support the work of neighborhood-based groups
• Invest in and build on the existing strengths and assets of the region’s neighborhoods; and
• Promote civic pride in our community.
Who’s Eligible to Apply?

- Be a 501(c)(3) agency and/or an organized group carrying out a charitable purpose for the common good (e.g., neighborhood organizations);
- Have a minimum of three active leaders (e.g., President, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.);
- Current checking account in the name of the organization/group;
- Be operated and organized so that there is no discrimination
Who’s Eligible to Apply?

• Located within Boone, Ogle, Stephenson or Winnebago County;
• Have a plan to implement a project that will benefit residents of a defined geographic area;
• Have the capacity to complete the proposed project by the end of the year; and
• Be current on all final reports for previously awarded grants from the Neighborhood Grants Program.
What Do We Fund?

Projects that …

• Resident led

• Build on existing neighborhood assets

• Encourage neighborhood partnerships

• Max grant is $2,500
Examples Please?

- Resident-Focused Seminars
- Community Gardens
- Organizing & Newsletters
- Reforestation Projects**
- Neighborhood Clean Ups
- Neighborhood Activities & Surveys
- Crime Prevention
- Beautification Projects*
A Note About Beautification Projects

• Permanent fixtures must be installed on public property or common areas
• Landscape projects must be permanent improvements
• Need a maintenance plan
• Trees can only be planted on public or common areas
What Don’t We Fund?

• Landscaping private property

• Activities that primarily benefit non-resident organizations including nonprofit and for-profit organizations

• Religious purposes – But faith-based organizations can apply for non-religious purposes
How Will You Spend The Money?

• Upload a budget

• Specific budget template on our website

• Budget narrative
Reporting Requirements

• Must report on your project

• Due by December 31st of funded year

• Use CFNIL’s Grants Portal to submit online
Timeline

• Application opens March 13th

• Application closes April 17th

• Awards in May

• Reports due December 31, 2023
Publicizing Your Neighborhood Grant

- When appropriate, yard sign
- Press Release
- Site Visit (aka grown-up field trip!)
- Social media
- T-shirt, program, posters
Who Can I Contact?

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